GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:719
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
RURAL COMMUNITY PHONES
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) provided by the private Telecom operators in the country as per the contractual obligation as on December 31, 2006;

(b) the target fixed by the Government for provision of RCPs;

(c) the achievement made by the private operators during each of the last three years,as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against those private operators who have failed to achieve the targets?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with M/s. Reliance Communications Limited (RCL) for provision of 21,431 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages having population more than 2000 and not having a Public Call Office (PCO) by September 2007.As on 31st December, 2006, M/s. RCL has provided 14,620 RCPs.

(b) & (c) As per the roll-out conditions of the agreement entered between USOF and M/s. RCL,20% of RCPs are to be provided by September,2005,another 40% by December,2006 and the remaining 40% by September,2007.

The targets fixed by the Government for provision of RCPs vis-Ã -vis the achievements made by M/s. RCL during each of the last three years are given below:-

Year of Agreement	Target	Achievement
First year of Agreement (upto September, 2005) (20%)	4286	4820
Second year of Agreement (Upto December, 2006) (40%)	8572	9800
Third year of Agreement (Upto September, 2007) (40%)	8573	1321
Achievement as on 31.01.2008	-	307
Total	21,431	16,248

(d) The agreements entered between USOF and M/s. RCL provide for levying of Liquidated damages in case of delay in provisioning of RCPs beyond the stipulated time. The Liquidated damages are being levied wherever applicable as per the terms and conditions of agreements.